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AN ANIMATED
CARTOON PROPHECY
BY WHEELAN

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SOX CATCHERS ARE MUCH BETTER THAN THOSE OF MCGRAW'S GIANTS

Ray Schalk Considered King of American League Backstops Will Be in Game for the White Sox, While the Giants Depend on McCarty and Rariden to Do the Bulk of Battery Work; McCarty Is Fastest of Two.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—Analysis of the work of various players by positions in past world series emphasizes the fact that with the possible exception of pitchers, no member of the team is under greater physical or mental strain than the catcher during the battles for the championship of the major leagues. In the handling of delivery and signals, close plays at the plate, throws to cut down base stealers and in backing up first and third throws from the outfield, the catcher is both a busy and important factor in the contest.

A sharp eye, steady judgment, a powerful throwing arm and cool courage are necessary requisites for the player who does the hard and wind-paid in the most important of all baseball games.

It is fortunate that both the Chicago Americans and the New York Nationals are equipped with catchers of this caliber for the series of 1917 which begins in Chicago next Saturday. While the Giants have a slight advantage in quantity, the White Sox are generally conceded to have an edge in the quality of the receiving staff.

The Chicago catchers include Ray Schalk, Edd Lynn and Joseph Jenkins, while the New York quartet consists of George McCarty, William Rariden, George Gibson and John Omlow.

As both Jenkins and Omlow are comparative newcomers, they are not likely to figure in the series to any extent and their chance of seeing service is extremely remote. Schalk is expected to bear the catching burden of the White Sox in every game of the series while Lynn is expected to be incapacitated by accident or illness.

He has caught in more than 75 per cent of the season's games while Lynn has acted as receiver in the others. Rariden has done the greatest amount of backstop play for the Giants this year, due in part to the fact that McCarty broke his leg early in the season and was out of the game for several months. Gibson, the former Pittsburgh reeve, is the third string catcher for New York.

If McCarty can stand the strain of the game, and it is the impression among the New York players that he will be physically fit for the fray, he will undoubtedly have first call upon the position. This will bring him into action against Schalk, the latter is unquestionably one of the best catchers of the day. He knows the weaknesses of the White Sox pitchers, and as he can handle the delivery of any and all the Chicago twirlers, he will also be able to deal with any form of curve or break that may think puzzling to the man at the plate.

The outstanding feature of his play, however, is his fast and accurate throwing to the bases.

He must be a speedy sprinter and a perfect slider who would pit his skill against Schalk with any degree of success.

McCarty is not so brilliant in this feature of the catcher's art, but he is an excellent director of the work of the hurlers and a far stronger batter than Schalk. According to the season's averages there is little choice in the fielding work of the two catchers, but the White Sox backstop is much faster on the base lines than McCarty as the latter's accident is likely to prevent him from taking chances at base stealing except in an emergency.

An injury to Schalk during the early stages of the coming series would leave the Chicago club, for while Lynn is an ambitious player, he lacks the experience and all-around ability of his principal.

In this respect the New York team is in a better position to face such a disaster for either Edd Lynn or Gibson, owing to their greater experience, can step into McCarty's place with less disconcerting effect upon the team play than would be the case were it necessary to substitute Lynn for Schalk.

This can be seen from a comparison of the following records which include the batting and fielding averages: stolen bases and double plays of five catchers who may participate in the series.

CATCHERS.
New York National League Club.
McCarty 48 298 878
Rariden 56 278 579
Gibson 71 284 584
Omlow 1 1 1

Chicago American League.
Schalk 123 326 983
Lynn 25 112 383
Jenkins 1 1 1

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